Court and High Courts have mounted during the last ten years ;

(b) if so, what is the data of arrears in these Courts as existed five years back and at present;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any measures to reduce these arrears;

(d) whether any changes are also contemplated in the present legal system to facilitate speedy disposal of cases ;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when these cases are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The number of cases pending in Supreme Court of India as on 31st December, 1983 and 31st December, 1988 were 136313 and 199138, respectively. Similarly information in respect of High Courts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1988 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13-5-1988 and this will have the effect of expediting the disposal of criminal cases. Recommendations of the Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts set up in 1984 to reduce arrears have been forwarded to the High Courts and the State Governments for appropriate action.

(f) No precise time limit can be laid down for the disposal of pending cases in these Courts.

Ceiling on expenditure incurred on Lok Sabha/State Assemblies elections

302. SHRI HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has proposed to raise the ceiling of expenditure incurred by candidates for elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies keeping in view the rising cost of services and other considerations ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government have since examined the matter and whether any decision has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Credit Deposit Ratio of State Bank of Indore

303. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what amount was advanced by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 year-wise ;

(b) what was the credit-deposit ratio of the Bank during the above period, year-wise ;

(c) whether the ratio confirms to the all India ratio ; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The outstanding advances and credit: deposit ratio of State Bank of Indore as on the last Friday of December, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 are given below:

	Advances (Rs. Crores)	Credit : Deposit Ratio(%)
December, 1985	295	74.1
December, 1986	389	79.1
December, 1987	496	77.1
December, 1988	650	81.3

(c) The credit : deposit ratio of State Bank of Indore was higher than all-India Credit : deposit ratio of all public sector banks as a group which stood at 62.1%, 59.1%, 57.0% and 56.2% for the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

Measures to improve condition of Tea Garden Workers in Assam

304. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board Management has taken any steps for securing better working conditions, improving amenities and giving incentives to the tea garden workers in Assam ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tea Board undertakes supplementary welfare programmes and schemes for the benefit of tea plantation workers and their dependents through various schemes like (i) Grant of educational stipend to the wards of tea garden workers, and (ii) financial assistance to various institutions and organisations under General Welfare Schemes for the benefit to tea garden workers and their dependents.

Payment of Customs Duty by Bombay Dyeing on DMT Plants

305. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1095 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1989 and state :

(a) whether the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal has disposed of the appeal filed by Government regarding the payment of customs duty on DMT Plant by M/s Bombay Dyeing;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what further action is being contemplated by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) :

(a) The Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal has not yet disposed of the Miscellaneous Application filed by the Department for early hearing and decision.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.